

GUY HOTTEL, SAC

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

The next speaker was GEORGE B. MURPHY, JR., who said it was decided at the National Executive Committee meeting of the Progressive Party last Saturday to undertake to organize and get into motion for the FEPC. He said that PAUL ROBESON, C. B. BALDWIN, and HENRY THOMAS (Local 74) will all exert pressure to get the FEPC through this session of Congress. He mentioned that GERTRUDE STONE, Secretary of the Progressive Party, was backing this too. (Informant believes MURPHY was referring to GERTRUDE EVANS). MURPHY also said that Mrs. SENORA LAWSON will bring others up from Virginia to mobilize the demonstration. He said that no matter what TRUMAN, MCCARTHY, DULLES, or anyone else says, we are going to keep up "The Vigil" in front of the White House. (S)(u)

The next speaker, according to [] was PHILLIP MORRISON, who also was introduced by ARTHUR STEIN. In STEIN's introduction he stated that MORRISON was a member of the Executive Committee of the Progressive Party. Informant described MORRISON as a white man with a high forehead, dark hair parted on the side, short stature, and crippled leg - carries a cane. According to informant MORRISON stated that he was in Washington a month ago at a meeting of the American Physicists on the making of that great weapon. He said that he is pleased to see this great audience "because it shows resistance, that splendid word." MORRISON said we here must answer the question of the future. He said that he was going to talk about the hydrogen bomb decision. He said he had worked professionally for four years. (Informant states that he did not indicate on what he had worked professionally.) He said the tragedy of South Amboy, New Jersey was that in the minds of the people there was the thought that an "A Bomb" had exploded. However, in reality that was only a class B explosion caused by 300 tons of explosives. He said it would do a certain amount of damage, but that the A Bomb would be comparative to 3000 tons of explosives, and that the Hydrogen Bomb, which by the way is not yet built, would be comparative to 1,000,000 tons of explosives, and that such a weapon, exploded seventeen miles high over New York would scorch black all five of the boroughs of New York City. He added that anyone in the audience from New York would know what area that would take in. He said that an explosion of a Hydrogen Bomb over Washington all the District of Columbia and surrounding Maryland and Virginia would be quite black and all the people therein would be burned to death. He said that there is a controversy between the means and ends but only a few people, in the great metropolitan district, are worthy of such a device. He said the decision to manufacture the Hydrogen Bomb was announced February 1950 in the White House "like they do things." He said the whole country got a flat statement from the President to manufacture the H₂ Bomb. This decision was not widely discussed "like all the others, and as a former employee of the Manhattan Project I was surprised that this information was given out. It was done by gossips and columnists." (S)(u)

b2
b7D

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

GUY HOTTEL, SAC

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

MORRISON stated that the Hydrogen Bomb is not entirely new. He said that eight years ago men were employed to study how to build a Hydrogen Bomb. Why, then, the decision at this time? I can say that the impetus came in the early part of September 1949 when officials learned the Russians had exploded a bomb. This was learned by a certain routine. They didn't tell me, but I can make a very shrewd guess. Since 1946 we have been patrolling the air. We had planes out catching the air dust in the atmosphere. The radioactivity of the atmosphere is measured and they can tell from this all about where and what kind of a bomb was exploded. Any well informed person would know the Russians would succeed in making the bomb. "In September 1945 at Los Alamos, it was said the Russians would be able to do it in about five years, although LESLIE GROVES was the only one who didn't believe it. I venture to say the United States Government was quite surprised to learn that the Russians had exploded a bomb. Then the President made the statement in the American know how on which we hold everything in such sacred trust (laughter). The American physicists went to such nothings and characters (meaning the Senate) and said we will make powerful weapons and then the administration was given an ultimatum. All this was under pressure. Even the General Advisory Board and the Atomic Energy Commission asked the question, 'By making this horrible weapon, does it improve our security?' Most said it was more dangerous than any enemy." Many of the officials said that even in the cold war they did not believe so. In the case of the Hydrogen Bomb, we pray that people will oppose it. We don't even know who will make the first Hydrogen Bomb. It might even be the Russians who make it first. The President cannot say that we have it. Maybe us; maybe the Russians. They are working slowly on a weapon that threatens American cities more than any others. The whole idea was an unsound decision. Why was this decision made? The decision shows a crisis in the President's leadership. The President's advisors found themselves in a dilemma. The President's idea to shut the people up is worse than the bomb itself. He is faced with a new course. He either had to withdraw everything he said about the Russians or face his own real indictment. So, he had to introduce something new into the dilemma, and so, the decision about the bomb caused more attention of the people to the cold war and also has drawn the attention of the people especially in Europe. It has aroused their resistance in the countries over there that are not so anxious to be sure allies of the United States in another war. Something new has to be added. Secretary of State ACHESON said six weeks ago to stand pat on our policy because we are supposed to have the Hydrogen Bomb to back it up. But we don't have that strength. We don't have the Hydrogen Bomb and this assertion that we can depend on our strength will be our downfall, a policy to stand pat which cannot stand. There is nothing more important to the people of the United States than to have an atomic agreement between the east and the west. It is not by bombs and machine guns that Russia has gained friends in China. SUN YET SEN said our machine guns are from the United States, from Russia we have our ideas. (C)(u)

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

GUY HOTTEL, SAC

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

Informant advised that following the meeting on New Jersey Avenue a select group had been invited to attend a reception for the three main speakers, MORRISON, STONE, and LAWSON, at LILLIAN CLOTT's apartment, 1712 16th Street, N. W. Informant stated that approximately 75 to 100 people attended this reception, among whom she identified INEZ SAGER, ANN YALOM, MARK and EUGENIA HYDE, NELL KING, MARIE RICHARDSON, The SPERLINGS, and TILLA MINOWITZ. (S) (u)

Informant advised that all three speakers were in attendance at this reception and that LAWSON and MORRISON left in company with the HYDES and NELL KING. (S) (u)

LILLIAN CLOTT advised informant that she is presently working at the United Electrical Workers Union Headquarters. CLOTT stated that nothing further has been done in regard to the Washington Book Shop Association. (S) (u)

Informant stated that Mrs. LAWSON again mentioned the Mid-Century Conference and advised that Mrs. LAWSON stated she felt that "the middle-of-the-roadsers have to be defeated." She said that they were not impressed with CLAUDE PEPPER's recent defeat for the Senate seat from Florida. Mrs. LAWSON said that she herself comes from a conservative family. Informant stated that I. F. STONE advised that after the war PHILLIP MORRISON's services with the Manhattan Project were ended. He did not go into the details. Informant stated that STONE also made the statement that he himself had resided in the District of Columbia for approximately ten years. Informant stated that he drives a station wagon and was seen leaving LILLIAN CLOTT's with INEZ SAGER and an unidentified woman. Informant further advised that the following material was distributed at the meeting on New Jersey Avenue: (S) (u)

1. Copies of the resolution referred to above read by SALLIE PEEK.

2. Copies of "National Guardian," Volume II, No. 19, dated March 8, 1950. Informant stated that this issue was devoted almost entirely to the Progressive Party Convention held in Chicago February 24-26, 1950, and contained a picture and statement of SENORA B. LAWSON. Also contained in this issue of the "National Guardian" was an announcement of a "Peace Conference" to urge a meeting between the United States and Russia sponsored by the Maryland Committee for Peace, Sunday, March 19, 1950. It is further noted that Dr. PHILLIP MORRISON, Cornell University, Physics Professor, was to deliver the keynote address at this conference. Address of the Maryland Committee was listed as 1033 North Broadway, Baltimore 5, Maryland.

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

~~TOP~~ SECRET

In the course of a conversation on October 22, 1947, with Dan Schwartz, Regional Director of the UFWA, [] stated that he was taking the two girls, [] and [] over to see Isadore Stone of "P.M.". [] indicated that Stone was going to start a program on civil liberties in connection with these dismissals. (The two girls were among employees of the Central Intelligence Agency who had been dismissed from their positions for security reasons.)

b1
b6
b7C

On the same day [] contacted Miss [] and was informed that she had received a letter from CIG advising her to appear for a hearing on October 23. [] instructed her not to attend the hearing and asked if she could be at his office at 2:00P.M. [] was of the opinion that she and [] might be able to get their jobs back since there was so much pressure being brought on the case.

b2
b7D

[]
10-23-47, Memo to Director from
SAC WFO, Re: "Communist Infiltration
of the United Public Workers of
America-CIO; IS-C".
100-344835-235
(4)

SI-100-344835-314 p. 33
(5)

GEG:ra

~~TOP~~ SECRET

~~TOP SECRET~~

On October 23, 1947, a memorandum was submitted to the Director concerning the dismissal of certain Central Intelligence Agency employees in response to his inquiry as to why the responsibility for these dismissals had been publicly placed on the FBI. Only one item of information appears therein which is pertinent to I. J. Stone. This was information obtained from Confidential Informant [redacted] who reported that [redacted] of UPWA had stated that two of the CIA employees involved, namely, [redacted] and [redacted] were to call on Isadora Stone of UPWA. Stone was to initiate a campaign alleging that the civil liberties of these girls had been violated because of their dismissal. Miss [redacted] had received a letter from CIA advising her that she was to appear for a hearing on her dismissal on October 23 at 2:00 PM but Bernstein advised her not to appear.

10-23-47 Memo to Mr. E.A. Tamm from
A. Rosen

Re: [redacted]
[redacted]

62-30750-552
(5)

CRG:jjb

~~TOP SECRET~~

~~TOP SECRET~~

On December 22, 1947, the Bureau prepared a memorandum for [redacted] regarding Signora Ada Ascarelli Sereni who was alleged to be connected with illegal Jewish immigration into Palestine from Italy. Specifically, the Bureau informed [redacted] that Signora Sereni had been reported as being unsuccessful in an attempt to embark on the Panamanian vessel SS Beauharnais near Savona, Italy, during the night of June 28, 1946, when some 1200 Jews, mostly Polish, sailed on board that ship en route to Palestine. When questioned regarding this incident, Signora Sereni allegedly stated that she had not planned to go aboard, but had only gone to the point of embarkation to serve as an interpreter. (S)

In a memorandum dated January 23, 1948, from [redacted] the Bureau received information that its story concerning Mrs. Sereni's connection with the Beauharnais was confirmed by an Italian police report received from Italy in June, 1946. This report referred to Mrs. Sereni as an interpreter for J. F. Stone, an American journalist who intended to sail on the Beauharnais to write of his experiences, but who did not arrive at the port of embarkation in time. (S)

With reference to Mrs. Sereni's background this source reported that she was a prominent member of the Illegal Immigration Organization in Italy, was the widow of an ardent Zionist and sister-in-law of Emilio Sereni, a prominent Italian Communist. (S)

Bureau memo for [redacted] dated 12-22-47 and 1-23-48, reply from [redacted] Re: [redacted] 62-84266-43 p. 2 (40)

~~TOP SECRET~~

~~TOP SECRET~~

A document entitled "International Communist Movements 1 January, 1948 - 1 May, 1948," received from the Central Intelligence Agency, indicates that Isadore F. Stone, correspondent for the New York newspaper "P.M." departed in May, 1948, from New York for Paris. It was indicated that Stone's departure had not been confirmed and that Stone had been accused of being instrumental in placing Communist Party members in governmental positions.

Copy of CIA document received with
CIA memo dated 10-27-48.
61-16-1528

(6)

GEG:ra:ema

~~TOP SECRET~~